## Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5-12, and 14-15. Please cancel claims 16-19. Please add new claims 20-27. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1    1.    (Currently Amended)   A digital camera, comprising:

2          a housing;

3          a digital optical sensing apparatus mounted within said housing, said digital optical sensing

4    apparatus sensing optical images;

5          a storage medium for storing digital optical images captured by said digital optical sensing

6    apparatus;

7          an acoustic sensor capable of sensing human speech;

8          a speech reduction apparatus coupled to said acoustic sensor, said speech reduction

9    apparatus converting human speech sensed by said acoustic sensor to a symbolic text form; and

10         a controller which stores said symbolic text form in said storage medium in a relationship

11   associated with a captured digital image, wherein said controller:

12             (a) receives a user indication of a plurality of discrete time intervals;

13             (b) records a plurality of discrete human speech segments sensed by said acoustic

14   sensor in respective said discrete time intervals;

15             (c) causes said speech reduction apparatus to convert each said human speech

16   segment to a corresponding symbolic text segment; and

17             (d) automatically associates a respective digital optical image captured by said digital

18   optical sensing apparatus with each said symbolic text segment based on a temporal

19   relationship between the time interval in which the discrete human speech segment

20   corresponding to the symbolic text segment was recorded and the capturing of said digital

21   optical image.

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1    2.    (Original)  The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said controller comprises a

2    programmable processor executing a control program for controlling the operation of said digital

3    camera.

1    3.    (Original)  The digital camera of claim 2, wherein said speech reduction apparatus

2    comprises a speech reduction algorithm embodied as a plurality of instructions executable on said

3    programmable processor.

1    4.    (Original)  The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said speech reduction apparatus

2    converts said human speech sensed by said acoustic sensor to an intermediate symbolic form

3    comprising a symbolic representation of phonemes, said intermediate symbolic form being

4    subsequently reduced to natural language text by a separate apparatus.

1    5.    (Currently Amended)   A method of operating a digital camera, comprising the steps of:

2         capturing a plurality of digital ~~image~~ images of ~~an object~~ respective objects of interest with

3    optical sensing apparatus of said digital camera;

4         recording a plurality of discrete segments of human speech of a user in said digital camera

5    during a plurality of respective discrete time intervals, ~~said recording step being performed~~ each

6    respective discrete time interval occurring substantially contemporaneously with ~~said step of~~

7    capturing ~~a~~ of each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images;

8         rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a

9    respective corresponding segment of symbolic text ~~form~~ using speech reduction apparatus within

10   said digital camera; and

11        automatically associating each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images

12   with a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text rendered from a respective

13   corresponding segment of human speech based on a temporal relationship between the respective

14   discrete time interval during which the corresponding segment of human speed was recorded and

15   the capturing of the respective digital image, and storing each said symbolic text ~~form~~ segment in

16   a relationship associated with each respective said captured digital image.


1    6.    (Currently Amended)   The method of operating a digital camera of claim 5, wherein said

2    step of rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a

3    respective corresponding segment of symbolic text ~~form~~ converts said human speech to an

4    intermediate symbolic form comprising a symbolic representation of phonemes, said intermediate

5    symbolic form being subsequently reduced to natural language text by an apparatus separate from

6    said digital camera.

1      7.      (Currently Amended)   The method of operating a digital camera of claim 5, wherein said

2      step of rendering <u>each</u> said <u>segment of said plurality of discrete segments of</u> human speech in a

3      <u>respective corresponding segment of</u> symbolic text ~~form~~ is performed by a programmable

4      processor executing a speech reduction program.


1      8.      (Currently Amended)   The method of operating a digital camera of claim 7, wherein said

2      programmable processor further executes a control program for controlling the operation of said

3      digital camera, and said step of rendering <u>each</u> said <u>segment of said plurality of discrete segments</u>

4      <u>of</u> human speech in a <u>respective corresponding segment of</u> symbolic text ~~form~~ is performed by

5      said programmable processor in the background when said control program is otherwise

6      unoccupied.

1    9.    (Currently Amended)   A program product for controlling the operation of a digital camera,

2    said program product comprising a plurality of processor executable instructions recorded on

3    signal-bearing media, wherein said instructions, when executed by at least one programmable

4    processor within said digital camera, cause the camera to perform the steps of:

5    capturing a plurality of digital ~~image~~ images of ~~an object~~ respective objects of interest with

6    optical sensing apparatus of said digital camera;

7    recording a plurality of discrete segments of human speech of a user in said digital camera

8    during a plurality of respective discrete time intervals, ~~said recording step being performed~~ each

9    respective discrete time interval occurring substantially contemporaneously with ~~said step of~~

10    capturing ~~a~~ of each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images;

11    rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human speech in a

12    respective corresponding segment of symbolic text ~~form~~ using speech reduction apparatus within

13    said digital camera; and

14    associating each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images with a

15    respective corresponding segment of symbolic text rendered from a respective corresponding

16    segment of human speech based on a temporal relationship between the respective discrete time

17    interval during which the corresponding segment of human speech was recorded and the capturing

18    of the respective digital image, and storing each said symbolic text ~~form~~ segment in a relationship

19    associated with each respective said captured digital image.


1    10.    (Currently Amended)   The program product for controlling the operation of a digital

2    camera of claim 9, wherein said step of rendering each said segment of said plurality of discrete

3    segments of human speech in a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text ~~form~~ converts

4    said human speech to an intermediate symbolic form comprising a symbolic representation of

5    phonemes, said intermediate symbolic form being subsequently reduced to natural language text

6    by an apparatus separate from said digital camera.


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1    11.   (Currently Amended)   A method of recording information with digital images, comprising

2    the steps of:

3         capturing ~~at least one~~ a plurality of digital ~~image~~ images of a respective ~~object~~ objects of

4    interest with optical sensing apparatus of a digital camera;

5         recording ~~at least one segment~~ a plurality of discrete segments of human speech of a user in

6    said digital camera, ~~each segment corresponding to a respective digital image, said recording step~~

7    ~~being performed~~ during a plurality of respective discrete time intervals occurring substantially

8    contemporaneously with ~~said step of~~ capturing ~~the~~ of each respective digital image of said

9    plurality of digital images;

10        rendering each said ~~at least one~~ segment of said plurality of discrete segments of human

11   speech into ~~at least one~~ a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text ~~form~~ using speech

12   reduction apparatus within said digital camera;

13        automatically associating each respective digital image of said plurality of digital images

14   with a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text rendered from a respective

15   corresponding segment of human speech based on a temporal relationship between the respective

16   discrete time interval during which the corresponding segment of human speech was recorded and

17   the capturing of the respective digital image, and recording said association in a memory of said

18   digital camera;

19        uploading said at least one digital image and said at least one segment of symbolic text to a

20   digital image formatting apparatus; and

21        formatting said ~~at least one~~ plurality of digital ~~image~~ images and said ~~at least one~~ plurality

22   ~~of segment~~ segments of symbolic text for viewing by a user using said digital image formatting

23   apparatus, wherein each said segment of symbolic text is formatted for viewing in a human

24   readable form associated with its corresponding digital image.

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1    12.    (Currently Amended)  The method of recording information with digital images of claim

2    11, wherein said step of rendering each said ~~at least one~~ segment of said plurality of discrete

3    segments of human speech in a respective corresponding segment of symbolic text ~~form~~ converts

4    said human speech to an intermediate symbolic form comprising a symbolic representation of

5    phonemes, and wherein said step of formatting said ~~at least one~~ plurality of digital ~~image~~ images

6    and said ~~at least one segment~~ plurality of segments of symbolic text for viewing comprises

7    reducing said intermediate symbolic form to natural language text.


1    13.    (Original)  The method of recording information with digital images of claim 11, wherein

2    said digital image formatting apparatus is a general-purpose digital computer executing a digital

3    image formatting program.


1    14.    (Currently Amended)  The method of recording information with digital images of claim

2    11, wherein said step of formatting said ~~at least one~~ plurality of digital ~~image~~ images and said ~~at~~

3    ~~least one segment~~ plurality of segments of symbolic text comprises formatting for output on

4    paper, wherein formatted text is printed on paper with a corresponding digital image.


1    15.    (Currently Amended)  The method of recording information with digital images of claim

2    11, wherein said step of formatting said ~~at least one~~ plurality of digital ~~image~~ images and said ~~at~~

3    ~~least one segment~~ plurality of segments of symbolic text comprises formatting for viewing from

4    an output screen of a digital device, wherein formatted text is displayed on said output screen

5    with a corresponding digital image.


16-19.  (Cancelled)

1    20.    (New)  The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said controller associates a respective

2    digital image with each symbolic text segment according to at least one of the following

3    association priorities:

4         (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment

5    corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with the first

6    digital image;

7         (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until the

8    end of the recoding of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment,

9    and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment but before the

10   digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated with the second digital

11   image; and

12        (3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most recently

13   captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text

14   segment.

1    21.    (New)  The digital camera of claim 20, wherein said controller associates a respective

2    digital image with each symbolic text segment according to all of said association priorities.

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1   22.   (New)   The method of claim 5, wherein said step of automatically associating each

2   respective digital image of said plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding

3   segment of symbolic text comprises automatically associating according to at least one of the

4   following association priorities:

5         (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment

6   corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with the first

7   digital image;

8         (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until the

9   end of the recoding of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment,

10  and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment but before the

11  digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated with the second digital

12  image; and

13        (3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most recently

14  captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text

15  segment.


1   23.   (New)   The method of  claim 22, wherein said step of automatically associating each

2   respective digital image of said plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding

3   segment of symbolic text comprises automatically associating according to all of said association

4   priorities.

1    24.    (New)   The program product of claim 9, wherein said step of associating each respective

2    digital image of said plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding segment of

3    symbolic text comprises associating according to at least one of the following priorities:

4             (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment

5    corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with the first

6    digital image;

7             (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until the

8    end of the recoding of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment,

9    and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment but before the

10   digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated with the second digital

11   image; and

12            (3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most recently

13   captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text

14   segment.


1    25.    (New)   The program product of claim 24, wherein said step of associating each respective

2    digital image of said plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding segment of

3    symbolic text comprises associating according to all of said association priorities.


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1    26.    (New)   The method of claim 11, wherein said step of automatically associating each

2    respective digital image of said plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding

3    segment of symbolic text comprises automatically associating according to at least one of the

4    following priorities:

5         (1) if a first digital image is captured during the recording of a human speech segment

6    corresponding to the symbolic text segment, the symbolic text segment is associated with the first

7    digital image;

8         (2) if no digital image is captured from a time the digital camera is powered on until the

9    end of the recoding of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text segment,

10    and a second digital image is captured after recording the human speech segment but before the

11    digital camera is powered off, then the symbolic text segment is associated with the second digital

12    image; and

13         (3) in all other cases, the symbolic text is associated with the digital image most recently

14    captured before the recording of the human speech segment corresponding to the symbolic text

15    segment.


1    27.    (New)   The method of claim 26, wherein said step of automatically associating each

2    respective digital image of said plurality of digital images with a respective corresponding

3    segment of symbolic text comprises automatically associating according to all of said association

4    priorities.


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